

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 21-24 are added. Prompt examination and allowance in due course are respectfully solicited.

In reply to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed on August 12, 2005, Applicant elects Species I, Fig. 3 (claims 1-6) with traverse for further prosecution on the merits.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Election is improper because the Figures subject to the election do not illustrate mutually exclusive characteristics of Figures 3-9, respectively. Further, the corresponding claims do not recite mutually exclusive characteristics. See MPEP 806.04(f). Therefore, the Election should be withdrawn and claims 1-20 be examined. Applicant respectfully notes claims 7-11 read on Fig. 4; claims 12-14 read on Fig. 5; claims 15-17 read on Fig. 6; claims 18, 19 and 20 read on Figs. 7, 8 and 9, respectively. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that at least claim 1 is a generic claim.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present

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application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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